

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 003341

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-07 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

RSC-01 SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

FRB-01 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 TAR-01 IGA-01 /136 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER

APPROVED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

NEA/ARN - MR. KORN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 085618

R 072300Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 003341

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

UNCLAS STATE 003341

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O.11652:NA
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 7, 1975:

QUOTE: MR. ANDERSON: WE HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS IN
THE LAST DAY OR SO ABOUT REPORTS IN THE PRESS OF PROTESTS
BY SOME -- OR CONCERN, I MIGHT SAY -- BY SOME LATIN
AMERICAN COUNTRIES ABOUT THE TRADE BILL. AND SPECIFICALLY
REPORTS FROM ECUADOR AND FROM VENEZUELA. AND ON THAT, I
WANTED TO SAY THIS, IN ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS. THAT THE
NEW LAW IS OBVIOUSLY DISCRIMINATORY AS IT RELATES TO PRE-
FERENCES IN THE PARTICULAR CASE OF ECUADOR, FOR EXAMPLE.
AS YOU KNOW, ECUADOR EXPORTS VERY LITTLE OIL. IT IS A POOR
COUNTRY, AND ALTHOUGH AN OPEC MEMBER, IT DID NOT EMBARGO
ANY SHIPMENTS TO US LAST YEAR.

THE LEGISLATION OVERALL INCLUDES A NUMBER OF PROVISIONS
WHICH WILL HELP THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES.

THE PRESIDENT CANNOT APPROVE PART OF THE LAW AND VETO PART.
SO THIS BILL WAS SIGNED, BECAUSE ON NET BALANCE, THE LAW

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 003341

IS IN THE GENERAL INTEREST OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AS
WELL AS IN OUR OWN INTEREST.

THE SECRETARY TESTIFIED AGAINST THE PROVISION WHICH AUTO-
MATICALLY EXCLUDES ALL OPEC MEMBERS. PRESIDENT FORD SAID,
WHEN HE SIGNED THE BILL, "I REGRET THE RIGIDITY AND UNFAIR-
NESS IN THESE PROVISIONS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO
CERTAIN OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES. I AM NOW UNDERTAKING THE
FIRST STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THIS PREFERENCE SYSTEM BY THIS
SUMMER. MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE CLEARLY ELIGIBLE,
AND I AND I HOPE SOME BROADER PARTICIPATION CAN BE POSSIBLE
BY THAT TIME." THIS IS A QUOTE FROM WHAT THE PRESIDENT
SAID.

NOW, THE NEW LEGISLATION IS ENTIRELY TOO RIGID, AND MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF PARTICULAR INSTANCES OF UNFAIRNESS -- AS IN THE CASE OF ECUADOR, AS WELL AS OUR HISTORIC TIES OF COOPERATION THROUGHOUT THIS HEMISPHERE, SUCH AS WITH VENEZUELA.

THE SECRETARY WILL TALK TO CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS IN A VERY FEW DAYS.

Q. IS THIS THE PRESIDENT?

A. NO, THIS IS THE STATEMENT THAT I AM READING HERE. -- IN A VERY FEW DAYS TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE.

Q. WHO IS "WE", BOB?

A. THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Q. YOU ARE SPEAKING NOW ON THE SECRETARY'S BEHALF IS THAT RIGHT?

A. YES. -- TO CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS IN A VERY FEW DAYS TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO REMOVE SUCH INEQUITIES.

Q. AS A MATTER OF RECORD -- DOES THE SECRETARY ALSO BELIEVE THAT? IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT IS HIS VIEW ABOUT THE SAME PROVISIONS AS APPLYING TO THE OTHER OPEC COUNTRIES, UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 003341

LIKE INDONESIA, NIGERIA. YOU HAVE ONLY REFERRED TO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

A. THAT'S RIGHT. WELL, I REFERRED TO LATIN AMERICA BECAUSE THE QUESTIONS THAT I RECEIVED, AND THE PRESS OFFICE RECEIVED, WERE WITH REGARD TO STATEMENTS MADE IN ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, DOES THE SECRETARY THINK THIS WHOLE PROVISION SHOULD BE REMOVED?

A. YES, HE DOES, AND HE SO TESTIFIED IN THE PAST.

Q. ON A BROADER QUESTION, DOES THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, OR DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT FAVOR CONTINUING AID TO COUNTRIES LIKE ECUADOR --

A. I'M SORRY, COUNTRIES LIKE?

Q. ECUADOR, WICH YOU POINT OUT ARE IN NEED, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY ARE MEMBERS OF OPEC?

A. I WOULD SAY WITH A COUNTRY SUCH AS ECUADOR, WHICH IS,

AS I SAID HERE, A POOR COUNTRY, THE ANSWER WOULD BE YES.

Q. AND THAT WOULD GO FOR --

A. I MEAN, IT WOULD DEPEND UPON THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. I THINK THAT WOULD BE THE GOVERNING PROVISION HERE, ON THE QUESTION OF AID.

Q. IS THE SECRETARY IN TOUCH WITH MR. BOUTEFLIKA CURRENTLY, OR HAS HE BEEN IN THE LAST FEW DAYS?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. SEVERAL NEWS ORGANIZATIONS AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT BOTH HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FIND OUT WHERE MR. BOUTEFLIKA IS, AND I WONDERED IF YOU COULD HELP US. THE ALGERIAN MISSION IN NEW YORK SAYS HE HAS LEFT, DEPARTED, AND APPARENTLY NOBODY KNOWS WHERE HE IS. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HELP US.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 003341

A. IF I HEAR FROM HIM, I WILL LET YOU KNOW, YES.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN ANY REQUEST BY AMERICAN AMBASSADORS OR BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON POSSIBLE USE OF FORCE AGAINST OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES? I AM ASKING FOR AN UPDATE SINCE YESTERDAY.

A- I AM UNAWARE OF ANY CHANGE IN WHAT I SAID FROM YESTERDAY.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, NO INSTRUCTIONS HAVE GONE OUT TO AMERICAN AMBASSADORS TO EXPLAIN THIS TO OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

A. WELL, AS I SAID YESTERDAY, WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH

OUR EMBASSIES IN THE ARAB WORLD ABOUT THIS SUBJECT, TO EXPLAIN, AS WE HAVE DONE HERE, ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR POINT IN HIS INTERVIEW. BUT AS FAR AS I KNOW, AND AS I SAID YESTERDAY, AS FAR AS I KNOW IT STILL STANDS TODAY. THERE HAVE BEEN NO MESSAGES BY THE SECRETARY -- BECAUSE THIS WAS THE SPECIFIC QUESTION I WAS ASKED YESTERDAY.

Q. I AM ASKING A DIFFERENT QUESTION. I AM JUST CURIOUS WHAT THE EXPLANATION IS. BECAUSE I DON'T THINK WE HAVE EVER REALLY GOTTEN AN EXPLANATION HERE OF WHAT THE SECRETARY WAS THINKING ABOUT. YOU DID HAVE AN EXPLANATION ON THE EUROPEAN ASPECT IN THAT INTERVIEW.

A. WELL, AS I SAID YESTERDAY ON THAT, BERNIE, THE SECRETARY MET WITH A NUMBER OF US ON FRIDAY UPSTAIRS AT UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S SWEARING IN, WHERE HE WAS ASKED

FURTHER QUESTIONS ON THIS POINT. AND I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO WHAT HE SAID. THERE IS NO POINT IN ELABORATING ON IT. I CANNOT ELABORATE ON IT.

Q. YOU SAID WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH OUR EMBASSIES IN THESE COUNTRIES. BUT WEREN'T INSTRUCTIONS SENT OUT TO THOSE EMBASSIES TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN EXPLAINING THE MEANING OF THIS, OR WERE THEY INSTRUCTED TO WAIT, IF UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 003341

QUESTIONS WERE ASKED, OR WHAT KIND OF CONTACT HAVE WE HAD WITH THE EMBASSIES?

A. THE COMMUNICATIONS THAT I HAVE SEEN -- I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF ALL THE COMMUNICATIONS -- AS I RECALL, COMMUNICATIONS CAME IN FROM OUR EMBASSIES WHERE SOME OF THE GOVERNMENTS ASKED FOR THE FULL TEXT, AND WHAT-HAVE-YOU, AND THEN WE SENT OUT INFORMATION SIMILAR TO THE CLARIFICATIONS, IF YOU WILL, ELABORATIONS THAT THE SECRETARY MADE LAST FRIDAY NIGHT, AND THEN SENT THEM OUT TO OUR POSTS.

Q. YOU MEAN THE EMBASSIES WERE TOLD, AS WE WERE TOLD FRIDAY, THAT THIS GRAVE EMERGENCY DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE IN THE OFFING?

A. YES.

Q. OUR EMBASSIES WERE TOLD THAT THE SITUATION AS IT IS TODAY, WE DON'T FORESEE SUCH A GRAVE EMERGENCY.

A. THAT IS RIGHT.

Q. AND PRESUMABLY THE EMBASSIES WOULD RELAY THAT INFORMATION TO THE GOVERNMENTS, RIGHT?

A. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS.

Q. OKAY. THEN THE ONLY THING I GUESS THAT WE ARE STILL TRYING TO CLARIFY IS WHETHER THEY WERE TO WAIT TO BE ASKED OR WHETHER THEY WERE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND OFFER THE CLARIFICATION. CAN YOU HELP US?

A. I CAN TRY TO HELP YOU. I DON'T KNOW. NORMALLY, IN CASES LIKE THIS, A CIRCULAR MIGHT GO OUT, AND THEN IN THE EMBASSIES ABROAD THEY WOULD DISCUSS A SUBJECT LIKE THIS, GO INTO THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND DISCUSS IT WITH PEOPLE. BUT I WILL SEE IF I CAN BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN I HAVE BEEN.

Q. BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT WAS SOME OR ALL OF THE MOST IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED EMBASSIES, OR WHETHER IT WAS A UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 003341

GENERAL CIRCULAR THROUGHOUT THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

A. I KNOW IT WAS NOT ANY GENERAL CIRCULAR THROUGHOUT THE FOREIGN SERVICE. AND I MIGHT ADD HERE, HAPPILY MOST OF OUR POSTS, UNLIKE SOME, BOTHERED TO READ THE QUESTIONS AND NOT JUST THE ANSWERS, AND SO THEY DIDN'T NEED AN AWFUL LOT OF GUIDANCE.

Q. DID THE WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES GET THIS?

A. THERE WAS NO CIRCULAR SENT, TO MY KNOWLEDGE, TO ANY WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ON THE HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION OF THE POSSIBLE USE OF FORCE IF THE ECONOMIES OF THE WEST WERE STRANGLER.

Q. I AM STILL A LITTLE CONFUSED ABOUT THIS CIRCULAR. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE EMBASSIES IN QUESTION GOT A TEXT, A FULL TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW. AND NOW YOU SEEM TO SUGGEST THERE IS SOME ADDITIONAL MATERIAL THAT WE HAVE NOT SEEN AND THAT IS NOT -- AN ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION OF WHAT KISSINGER WAS SAYING.

A. YES, AN EXPLANATION, WHICH IN ESSENCE IS WHAT HE SAID UPSTAIRS ON FRIDAY.

Q. YOU HAVE ADDED TO THE TEXT WHAT HE SAID UPSTAIRS.

A. AND THIS WAS SENT OUT IN THE FORM OF A TELEGRAM. BUT I AM UNABLE TO TELL YOU RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT EXACTLY TO WHOM THE TELEGRAM WENT.

Q. WELL, THE EXPLANATION IS VERBATIM WHAT HE SAID UPSTAIRS, OR IS IT A RECONSTRUCTION OF IT IN THE FORM OF "WHAT HE REALLY MEANT WAS . . ."

A. I BELIEVE AT SOME POINT THE VERBATIM TEXT OF THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON FRIDAY WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN SENT OUT ON MONDAY -- SUNDAY OR MONDAY. AND THAT WAS SENT OUT.

Q. HAS CONGRESS OR ANY COMMITTEES IN CONGRESS ASKED THE UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 003341

SECRETARY TO TESTIFY ON THIS MATTER? ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

Q. HAS YESTERDAY'S CONFUSION NOW BEEN SORTED OUT? YOU

TOLD US YESTERDAY THAT THE LETTERS OF CLARIFICATION ON MARTINIQUE WERE SENT OUT WITHIN THE PAST TWO OR THREE DAYS.

A. YES.

Q. THAT WAS NOT ACCURATE?

A. THAT IS RIGHT. AND WE POSTED IT YESTERDAY, AND PHONED AROUND TO AS MANY AS WE COULD. THE LETTERS WERE SENT OUT ON DECEMBER 24.

Q. THERE WAS NO COMMUNICATION THAT WAS SENT OUT IN THE PAST TWO OR THREE DAYS -- PAST THREE OR FOUR DAYS?

A. NO. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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CAIRO
DAMASCUS
GENEVA
JIDDA

KUWAIT
DHAHRAN
JERUSALEM
KHARTOUM
MANAMA
TEHRAN
TEL AVIV
TUNIS
TRIPOLI
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